ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical film comprises a transparent support and a
polarizing layer. The polarizing layer selectively trans-
mits polarized light, and selectively reflects or scatters
other polarized light. The polarizing layer contains a
compound represented by the formula (I) of $Ar^1-C\equiv C-Ar^3-C\equiv C-Ar^2$. In the formula (I), each of Ar^1 and Ar^2 independently
is a monovalent aromatic group, and Ar^3 is a divalent aro-
matic group.